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BLUMENBACHIA INSIGNIS A CASUAL PLANT AT SOUTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

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THE town of Southbridge, Massachusetts, seems to be a very prolific field for the botanist. For a number of years the writer has made botany a recreation, and has found 874 species and varieties growing in Southbridge. Mr. Fred. W. Rowley, a classmate and friend of the writer, has found in the same way 900 species and varieties within the limits of the town, not including 13 garden escapes, and 47 found along the border of adjoining towns. Each has found many that the other has not seen, so that together we have over 1000 species and varieties as growing within the limits of Southbridge. Each has kept a list of his plants. This includes several of which only a single plant has been seen; also several adventive plants brought here through one means or another. Mr. Rowley is foreman of the wool-sorting department of the Hamilton Woolen Company. This company buys large quantities of wool from Australia, South America, our Western States, and wherever good wool can be obtained. This wool brings with it from other countries many seeds, especially such as are provided with hooks, or are enclosed in burs that cling to the wool. Of course some of these seeds get scattered about the mill yard, and thus plants unknown to this section are produced. Last spring, or early summer, Mr. Rowley called my attention to a plant that had made its appearance near the mill. In due time he announced that it had blossomed, but that he could not find it in our botanies. I went to the place, and there it was, a curiosity surely, the flower a little white star, with red and yellow center. But woe to him who would examine the plant too closely, for it produced a shock that exceeded any nettle

with which I have come in contact. Trailing on the ground, the plant now covers a space perhaps 30 inches or so in diameter. I took some of it home, but soon gave up the botany, and opened Century Dictionary to the word "Nettle." There I found "Chili Nettle," with reference to its order "Loaseae," under which much to my delight I found a fairly good description of our plant. Next I sent a specimen to Gray Herbarium, getting from there the information that the plant is *Blumenbachia insignis*, a native of Chili, and probably unknown, outside of cultivation, in North America. Since then we have found it in Gray's School and Field Botany as a native of Chili. Stem round, with fine stripes of darker green, and covered with long, stinging hairs. Leaves opposite, palmately veined and divided (much resembling leaves of the Skeleton Geranium), their upper surface covered with long hairs, the lower pubescent. Flowers single, nodding, on long, axillary peduncles. Petals 5, cucullate, white, ending with an acute point. Five scale-like petals inside the others and alternate with them, erect, with yellow base and red tips, resembling a corona. Stamens, with slender filaments, in 5 sets, opposite the white petals. Also 10 sterile filaments, in pairs, opposite the inner petals. Style one, long-exserted, stiletto-shaped, pubescent. Sepals 5, short, lanceolate. Ovary inferior, 1-celled, spirally twisted, covered with hairs.

Other adventive plants from the mill yard are *Amarantus spinosus* L., *A. crispus* Braun., *Artemisia annua* L., *Xanthium spinosum* L., *X. Canadense* Mill., *Vernonia Baldwinii* Torr., *Solanum rostratum* Dunal, *Helenium tenuifolium* Nutt., and *Eleusine Indica* L.

Some of these have already spread beyond the confines of the Mill yard, showing a disposition to make themselves at home. Other strange plants have started but are not yet sufficiently developed to be identified.

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.